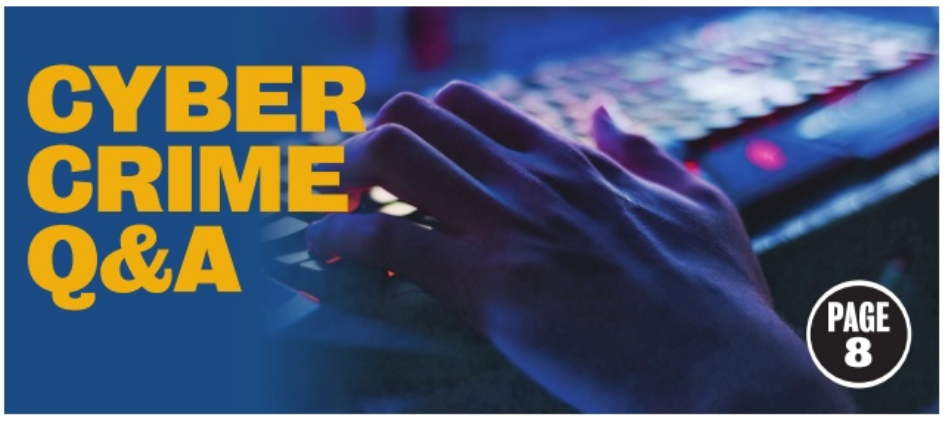
BENGALURU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 17 | Humidity 53% Misty morning and partly cloudy Sensex 57,832 | Nifty 17,276 | Gold 50,123 | Silver 63,896 | Dollar 74.68 | Euro 84.52 | GBP 101.53



Despite BBMP directive mandating use of treated wastewater for all construction purposes, only a fraction of BWSSB's recycled water is sold

NOT WOKE ON WATER

Board recycling 973 MLD of wastewater

| Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board isn't finding many takers for its recycled water in the city.

So, the civic body is now trying to persuade the Minor Irrigation department — the biggest user of BWSSB's treated wastewater — to pay the maintenance charges to recover a part of the cost.

Currently, the board is recycling 973 MLD (million litres per day) of water: what is intriguing is the fact that only a fraction of it is being purchased.

For instance, in January this year, it could sell only 274 loads of treated wastewater. The board supplies treated water through tankers of 6,000-litre capacity for Rs 360 per tanker.

The BWSSB has 35 STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) located across the city, and it supplies the recycled water up to a five km radius from these plants.

V Gangadhar, chief engineer, wastewater management, BWSSB, told BM: "Bengaluru, along with its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"As per BBMP order, all construction sites must use treated water; but only a handful do so...

— N Jayaram, chairman, BWSSB

Why civic apathy is cyclical

Of broken bollards, illegal parking and zero maintenance at ORR cycle lane

| Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Recently, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built a cycle lane along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) linking KR Puram and Silk Board.

However, of late, cyclists have noticed motorbikes and other vehicles parked in the lane, as the infrastructure is not even properly maintained.

The plastic bollards had been installed to make it a dedicated cycle lane, also to ensure other vehicles do not enter the lane. But now, most of the bollards have been broken; it's been months, and the bollards have not been fixed yet.

Many of the cyclists have observed two-wheelers on the cycle lanes, that too, many coming in the wrong direction. This is in fact quite dangerous for the cyclists.

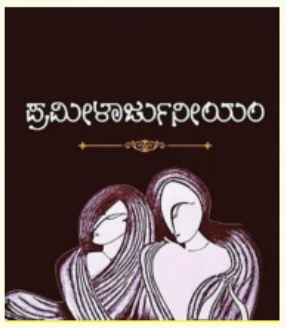
Especially during nights, in low lit areas, when oncoming two-wheelers approach from the opposite side of the lane when one is riding, it is indeed a frightening thing, said the cyclists BM spoke to.

"ORR bicycle lane in Marathahalli is completely encroached upon by motorcycles that often park on the lane. There is no space for the cyclists on a cycle lane. I have even observed garbage trucks parked near the lane in front of ISRO. Meanwhile, two-wheeler riders use the lane; especially

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Catch a play



Chennai's V Balakrishnan of Theatre Nisha presents Margazhi. A story that traces the life of a Bharatanatyam dancer and the turmoil of the exploitative culture that dictates the quest for dancers to achieve awards, accolades, scholarships and worthy stages to perform on. Vaidehi, an accomplished dancer realises that her accomplishments and hard work are not enough to enter the big league and faces the conundrum of striking a deal with the devil. Sounds intense? Well, that's life. Come watch art as it imitates life imitating art. **Where: Ranga Shankara**
When: Feb 26, 3.30 pm onwards
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

02 Shoppers, stop

Do you related to the protagonist of Confessions of a Shopaholic? Or, bust stress by lifting shopping bags? If you've got a passion and a taste for fashion, you've got to stop, drop everything and attend the Hi Life Exhibition.
One of the most exciting and exclusive fashion exhibitions of India with exclusive designs of haute couture, personal style, home décor and luxury products, is back in the city.
Top renowned designers from across India will be showcasing some of their best works of art, from wedding ensembles, designer apparels and jewellery to home accessories to furnishing concepts to new-age art.
Where: The Lalit Ashok, Seshadripuram
When: Feb 21

03 Work-time musings

The Indian Music Experience (IME) is inviting working professionals, freelancers and creative people to #WorkFromMuseum at the museum. It's time to pack your bag and explore a new and creative environment to work with ease.
Working Days: Tuesday to Sunday
Timings: 10 am – 6 pm
Cost: Rs 250 per day
For queries: 9686602366

When the tabebuia blooms...

It is that time of the year again when the 'tabebuia' blooms in Bengaluru and the landscape of Vidhana Soudha is surely feeling a little pampered just about now. The bright yellow against the city's baby blue sky is sure to cheer citizens up.
'Tabebuia' is derived from its Tupi name, tacyba bebuya, meaning 'ant wood'. The tree sheds its leaves in winter but for a brief period in March, it blooms brightly like the Sun. Catch a glimpse of the flowers in your neighbourhood or as you pass by Vidhana Soudha, soon. The magic may last only for about 15 days as these are seasonal flowers.

Internet slang is taking over, educators are concerned

Emojis, GIFs, stickers and abbreviations like IDK are used in classrooms and essays

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With the third Covid wave slowly waning, students are attending offline classes again. However, teachers who are welcoming students to campuses are shocked by a "mutation" — not of the virus, but of the way Generation Z speaks. It is seen, many students are introducing the most current internet lingo to their class work these days.

Many of these students have been attending online classes and accessing study materials through their mobile phones, using WhatsApp. The pandemic hit the city in 2020. A couple of years can change things for sure. Students have been using emojis, GIFs, stickers and memes with text to communicate. This has had an impact on formal and written speech.

"Students have been using abbreviations, commonly used on the internet, to converse with each other. But, they do respect the conventional ways of using language as far as their academic work is concerned.

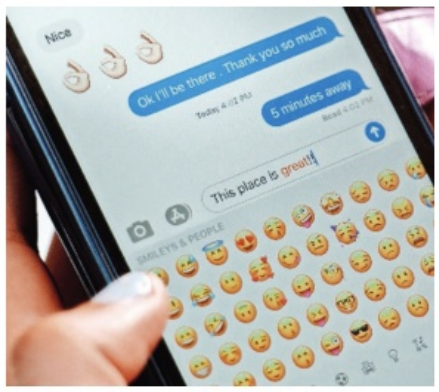
"In online classes students sometimes use abbreviations to speak with each other, but respect language conventions in academics. The students have started to communicate using multimodality (using a combination of communication modes). Teachers are noticing an increased use of exclamation marks and emojis. It is perhaps their way to express themselves," said a teacher at Neevs Academy.

Further, the teacher explained, as far as abbreviations are concerned, younger children tend to use internet slang a lot more.

For example: "IDK" is used instead of "I don't know" and "K" is used in the place of "Okay".

BM spoke with students to gather their perspective on this trend.

Mehr Brar Sohal, a 12th grade student, Neev Academy, told this reporter, "We've noticed this too, especially the use of emojis. It is more prevalent among younger students."



Students find using emojis helps tap into a casual vibe

> **We don't speak the language spoken 50 years ago. Having said that... As educators, we must help students differentiate between styles**
> –Sita Shankar, principal, Gopalan International

Sohal explained: "Once a student wrote, "I feel disheartened" and used a sad-faced emoji. Using emojis and internet lingo adds a tinge of casualness to conversations. It does play around with the conventional way of speaking but it definitely does not hold the power to "mutate" English Language."

But those involved in the education sector seem to be concerned about the trend.

Aloysius D'Mello, principal, Greenwood High International School, told BM, "The writing has taken a backseat owing to the pandemic

Students went through an excessive exposure to social media. Spellings and grammatical consistency are paid no heed. This is definitely impacting the quality of the students' communication skills in the longer run."

D'Mello said the faculty at Greenwood High is handing out assignments to get students to practice writing prose to shape their skills in an effective manner.

D'Mello pointed out that parents too must join in the effort. "Gifting books to students to read and speaking with them in formal English on WhatsApp will help."

WR David, principal, Jain International Residential School, told BM "WhatsApp lingo" has stirred a fear among teachers who work hard with students to improve their pronunciation and phonetics.

It appears that academics are finding it hard to adapt to the change.

"It amuses us that sometimes students grin while we give them instructions to improve language skills. Perhaps, they feel that they will hardly ever need to use what is taught. We wonder what is the practical approach when a student uses abbreviations to speak," David told BM.

Further, the principal pointed out that life is fast as it is, but does language need to adapt? What is the need to chop words into abbreviations while communicating with one another?

David said at Jain the faculty is approaching a midway to meet the students halfway. The school encourages usage of formal, academic language in formal gatherings but students may switch to informal speech in more casual settings.

He said, "Today's generation needs reason behind everything and we are definitely not as quick but more experienced. How can we let them go the wrong way when there is so much to appreciate. If our language becomes coded and short then we may never learn speech and thus is the end of our languages. Even our voices may wean…"

‘There is no going back to normal for us’

Parents of software engineer talk about unending trauma ever since their son’s death by suicide 3 months ago

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

It’s been nearly three months since 33-year-old Vikram, a software engineer, died by suicide at his home in Frazer Town. For his parents - V Girivelu and U Revathi though, it is as if time has not moved since then. The distraught parents have left their son’s room the way it was when he died by suicide on November 24 last year.

They have not changed or removed even traces of the final act from the room. Also, a message Vikram had written on the wall incriminating his relatives for abetting his sucide has also been left as it was. “Both of us are suffering from insomnia. At times, I get chest pains in the night. I have to pace in the hallway and wash my face often to return to normalcy,” Girivelu said, adding, “Normalcy is not the word as we cannot get our normal back ever again.”

Girivelu and Revathi pose with their son Vikram’s photograph

Vikram’s room is on the third floor which has to be accessed by a spiral staircase from his parents’ living room on the second floor. Revathi used to ring a bell to call her son down when the hot water was ready. On November 24, however, his mother rang the bell but there was no sign of Vikram. “As there was no response, I assumed that he had gone down to start the car after which he would spend some time with the stray dogs on the roads feeding them biscuits and buns,” Revathi told Bangalore Mirror.

After a while though, Revathi went up to see a note slipped out of the door. “Please do not break open the door, call media and police for proof and evidence and let them break open the door (for witness).”

They informed the police, who came and broke open the door to see Vikram had died by suicide. They found a suicide note in his trouser pockets where he accuses his father’s brother VV Singaravelu and wife Vasanthy Velu of being responsible for his death. He wrote in the note that his uncle and aunt had accosted him on the way to a BBMP office nearby and threatened him that if he did not end his life, they would destroy his parents’ life. “Vikram is a soft-spoken person and very attached to us. He got jobs abroad which he turned down as he was worried about us,” Girivelu said. The parents say his uncle and aunt used to harass the Vikram even when he was in college. According to Girivelu, the whole thing stemmed out of jealousy. After the suicide, Girivelu filed a complaint of abetment to suicide against his brother and sister-in-law. They were arrested and are now out on bail. But as the months go on, the bereaved parents, struggle to come out of their nightmare.

> **“Both of us suffer from insomnia. At times, I get chest pains in the night. I have to pace in the hallway and wash my face to be okay**
> –Girivelu, bereaved father

Covid hospitalisations dip to single-digit figure

Experts say the dip is positive as hospitalisations show severity of the infection, which seems to be on the wane

Health workers collect swab samples at Majestic on Sunday

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With the third wave waning fast, covid hospitalisation has fallen to a single-digit number. In fact, in the last few days, only one to four patients were getting admitted to hospitals. This is in sharp contrast with the peak of the wave when around 90 people were admitted to hospitals.

Experts say that this is a good sign as the hospitalisation is the key indicator for covid severity. This is the reason why covid curbs imposed during the third wave were not as ‘harsh’ as compared to the first two waves as the hospitalisation during this wave (during peak) was around five per cent compared to 27 per cent during the peak of the second wave. Oxygen consumption too had not increased this time which was another indicator of low severity of the wave.

According to the BBMP health bulletin, currently 16 patients are on ventilators, 26 are in ICU and 15 each in HDU and general beds. Hospitalisation data shows that four patients are in the ventilator for the last seven days, two for 14 days, six for the last 21 days and four are beyond 21 days. The age wise categorisation shows that one patient on ventilator is less than 18 years old, while two are in the age group of 19-40 years, five in 41 to 60 and eight in the 60-plus age group.

The current recovery rate in the city is 98.69 per cent with the active cases dropping to 6,398. Out of the 198 wards, 177 cases are reporting fever than 50 cases. The test positivity rate is 2.06 per cent while the case fatality rate is 0.83 per cent.

In the last few days, only 1-4 patients are getting admitted

Recently, as the covid hospitalisations had dipped, the State government has allowed private hospitals to de-reserve the covid beds for non-covid patients. Now, many hospitals are gearing up to take up elective surgeries and non-covid cases which had been temporarily halted during the peak third wave (The government had even issued an advisory for non-covid and non-emergency patients to stay away from hospitals for a while).

Covid count

Meanwhile, covid cases saw a further dip in the State with 1,000 new cases. Bengaluru, for the first time in third wave saw cases falling below 500 (485). Bengaluru Rural saw a big drop as only three cases were reported. But, deaths still are high as 18 people died of covid in the State with Bengaluru’s tally being 12. All the deceased are aged above 60 years and the senior most deceased was a 90-year old woman from Dharwad.

A device rooting for tree life

Researchers acquire portable machine to gauge tree health, water content without damaging it

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) Bengaluru has acquired a device that can detect ailing and decaying trees without damaging them. It's a portable device which gauges the health of trees on the inside through 3D imaging.

Electric Resistance Tomography (ERT) is a non-destructive technique to evaluate standing trees and ascertain their health conditions. According to IWST researchers, until now, inspections of trees were conducted using an invasive technique that ended up damaging them.

"Until now, the Core Sampling method has been used to ascertain the health of a tree. Under this technique, a cylindrical tree core is drilled out for the analysis. This creates a hole in the tree every time a sample is collected. If not plugged with the right amount of wax at the right time, trees get infected if insects or pathogens enter the hole, damaging the heartwood," said Dr BN Divakara, senior scientist, IWST.

In ERT, a set of 8-24 nails connected with a wire are wrapped around the tree and an electric current is passed through the wire to capture the image. A 3D structure of the tree is developed through multiple cross-section images. From the image thus obtained, the total volume of the heartwood is calculated and converted into biomass value. This furnishes the amount of heartwood in kilograms.

According to IWST scientists, ERT can also estimate the water content of a tree and ascertain if it is healthy or decaying. Researchers said the estimation will help avert many accidents and deaths due to trees falling in Bengaluru.

A file pic of a tree, that is almost on its last legs, in Austin Town

"The number of sensors to be fixed on the tree for ERT measurements depends on the circumference of the tree. A minimum of eight sensors are needed even for smaller trees. The images generated from the instrument are based on electrical resistance and electrical conductance. The water content, ion concentration, cell structure and other properties of the wood influence the electrical impulses passed through them and can indicate if the tree has decayed from inside and can come down crashing anytime. It is always better to remove such trees before accidents occur," explained Dr. Divakara.

> **Until now, the Core Sampling method has been used... This creates a hole in the tree... and trees could get infected**
>
> –Dr BN Divakara, senior scientist, IWST

The device has been imported from Germany and is currently being used to estimate the heartwood content of Red sandalwood.

"We are working on commercially important tropical timber tree species to analyse the value of these trees. We have standardised the instrument by using readings from multiple trees and have made it useful for heartwood estimation. Estimating the amount of heartwood can help the farmers understand the price of the timber," said Dr. MP Singh, director, IWST.

The machine is lightweight, portable and has inbuilt power storage. Moreover, it can create 3D images of around 50 standing trees in a day.

"We have measured the accuracy of the machine and it turned out to be 86 per cent. The technology uses distinction in the density between the heartwood and sapwood in a standing tree and can map the amount of heartwood. If we can sample more trees, data science can deliberate and predict the amount with better accuracy in the future," added Dr Singh.

Brand new auditorium for child welfare dept

Iffath.Fathima @timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The women and child welfare department will soon have access to a newly constructed auditorium with a seating capacity of 600. The building behind National Institute of Mental health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS) was not in use so it was decided to renovate it to use as an auditorium.

The building looked old from outside and was in a dilapidated condition. The indoors needed to be redone completely too as it had many cracks.

Officials stated, initially, the women and child welfare department had to take up the construction, but they were lacking funds the project did not take of for many years. They said, it was handed over to Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) to finish the interior and exterior construction.

The auditorium is ready for use and can seat 600 people at once

BSCL handed it over to Bengaluru Nirmithi Kendra (BNK). BNK carries out cost effective construction activities in urban areas. It takes up construction of various types of buildings from the government sector as well as from private sector to show the efficacy of cost effective technologies in prototype buildings.

The project was sanctioned by the BSCL at a cost of Rs 6.56 crore. The work started in January 2021 and it took a year to complete the entire building.

BSCL Assistant Engineer Sri Gowri said, "The auditorium has 600 red seats with lighting and fan facilities. There are green rooms and toilets. The auditorium has ramps on both sides, to be suitable for the differently abled. It will be handed over to the women and child welfare department shortly."

A BNK engineer stated the auditorium will be given to host events for children. "We are just a construction agency. The construction took time as initially funds were not given. However, once the project was given to BSCL, we got the necessary funds and started the project. The place is all done and is ready for use."

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Takes tow to tango

Assaye Road

This vehicle is on Assaye Road has not been moved at all in the last three years. Surely it has been abandoned. Will BBMP ever tow it?

Cough... cough

Hegde Nagar

The 1st Main and 2nd Main roads are covered with dust. The authorities must pay attention to the upkeep and development of this area.

A ₹2,800-cr commercial project on cards for B'luru

Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, GIC, is in talks with the Bhartiya Group to invest 2,800 crore in its commercial project in Bengaluru.

The deal will see GIC picking up 3 million sq ft of commercial assets in Bhartiya City, a 125-acre township project, from the builder, along with some revenue from its facility management business. –ET

Parked in protest

DKS, Cong MLAs continue three-day protest demanding KSE's 'dismissal'

Karnataka Congress legislators including KPCC chief DK Shivakumar stage protest in Vidhana Soudha on Sunday

The Congress party in Karnataka continued its agitation inside the Karnataka Assembly for the past three days, demanding "dismissal" of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa for his alleged statement on the national flag.

The Congress legislators have been camping in Vidhana Soudha inside the Assembly Hall and have been sleeping there during the night.

"The agitation is happening because of the adamant stand of the BJP. Who is asking for Eshwarappa's resignation ... We want his dismissal. Our appeal is also to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to dismiss him," KPCC chief D K Shivakumar said.

Stating that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is under pressure from within the party, KPCC chief Shivakumar said if the CM has self-esteem then he would have thrown out "foul-mouthed" Eshwarappa from the government when the latter had said Medium and Large Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani would become the next chief minister.

However, the Chief Minister said on Saturday that the Congress has lost the morality to be the opposition party.

Bommai said, "The agitation will continue either till the dismissal of Eshwarappa or till the end of the current assembly session," a source close to Shivakumar told PTI.

KSE's statement

Triggering a controversy, Eshwarappa had recently said that the saffron flag in the future could become the national flag and it will be unfurled at the Red Fort. "Not today but someday in the future maybe after 100, 200, or 500 years, the saffron flag may become the national flag. People used to laugh over the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Are we not building the temple now? Now Hindutva is being discussed in the country." -Agencies

Engg student rescued

A first -year engineering student, who had fallen off a cliff from Brahmagiri Hills on Sunday, was rescued by the National Disaster Response Force after hours of effort.

Nishank, hailing from Delhi, is studying engineering in Bengaluru. On Sunday, he went trekking to Brahmagiri Hills. He accidentally fell down and got stuck in a steep cliff.

While rescuing Nishank, it has to be kept in mind that there was also a steep cliff of around 300 feet downward and there was danger that he could fall down further. Then a team of police, fire personnel, SDRF, NDRF and district administration coordinated the efforts. Finally, the Air Force pitched in. A rope was sent down from a helicopter and an officer went down and picked him up and took him back in the chopper.

Nishank hanging from a cliff at Brahmagiri Hills in the outskirts of city

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Few takers for treated water

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

110 surrounding villages, generates around 2,000 MLD wastewater. Out of that, we are already treating 973 MLD; around 600-700 MLD is sent to the Minor Irrigation department to refill tanks in Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Anekal. We are in talks with the Minor Irrigation department for the maintenance charges."

"In January, we sold only 274 loads of recycled water. We are selling the treated water mainly to the construction companies at a low rate. Despite that, there are only a handful of buyers coming forward. We want to encourage people to use recycled water; so, we do not plan to hike the price," said Gangadhar.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has made the use of treated water mandatory for all types of construction in the city.

Under this rule, the Palike had directed the zonal commissioners not to approve construction plans unless the project proponents submit plans for utilisation of treated water for construction purposes. The approval also requires proof of payment to BWSSB for availing the facility.

Even though all construction activities -- parks, resorts and golf courses in the city -- were to do away with freshwater usage and use only treated water, demand stays low.

"While we are incurring a loss, we have to keep recycling the wastewater. The price has been kept low, but only a few purchase the treated water. As per the BBMP's order, all the construction sites are supposed to use treated water, but only a handful do so. People's mindset is the problem. Moreover, they have plenty of fresh water at their disposal. The board has around 9,000 public bore wells in the city's core area. They are also exploiting underground water," said N Jayaram, chairman, BWSSB.

According to Chitra Vishwanath, a Bengaluru-based architect who constructs sustainable buildings, lack of awareness about the treated water quality might be a reason behind the low demand.

"Construction quality water is different. It should not have any salt content. However, currently, there is no way to know the quality of the treated water being supplied by the BWSSB. Moreover, most of the construction sites are in peri-urban areas, whereas BWSSB tankers are supplying the water only within a 5 km radius of their treatment plants," said Chitra.

ORR cycle lane encroached upon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

during nights they go in the wrong direction. For the cyclists, it's really scary, as there is nowhere to go because on one end there are bollards; nor can they swerve to the main road all of a sudden as it is equally risky. There needs to be strict enforcement by the traffic police. How long do we wait for the traffic police to crack down on cycle lane violations? " asked cyclist Shilpi Sahu, who regularly commutes from Iblur to Marathahalli.

Sahu complained the bollards have been damaged at multiple places and have not been fixed yet. "When cars or other vehicles enter the cycle lane, they destroy the bollards. We do require non-motorised transport as it provides last-mile connectivity," she told BM.

Meanwhile many cyclists pointed out at the sand and silt accumulated on parts of the cycle lane.

Vinay R, another cyclist, said: "The silt is present at the corners of the lane, where there are even small jelly stones at some parts and fallen dried leaves. Cyclists could lose balance while riding here and injure themselves. Cycle lanes need to be maintained well. There is no point of just building a cycle lane and leaving it unattended soon after. The authorities are just not concerned."

"Pourakarmikas have been assigned to clear away the sand on the lanes and keep the stretch clean. They do it on a regular basis," a BBMP official said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Mujahid Pash S/O. Mohammed Ghouse R/o No 278 16th Cross Devaraj Urs Nagar Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Mujahid Pasha

I Fatmabano Mohammad Bashir Memon W/O, Mohmed Mahser R/o No 50 1st Main Road Subedarpalya Near Ganesha, Temple Yeshwanthpur, have changed my name to Fatma

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Time for open-source EV architecture

In 2021, several tech companies created open-source vehicle architecture operating systems and open electric vehicle (EV) platforms. This approach of adopting new partnership models in the automotive sector will increase in 2022, according to a latest report.

As digital technology becomes the differentiator in the car sector, automakers will soon have no choice but to become tech or software companies themselves, a new report has forecast. The automotive companies will increasingly look at data in a similar way to that of the tech world, to build or integrate ecosystems that will allow them to develop more compelling features or digital services.

By 2025, 50 per cent of the top 10 automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) will design their own chips and establish direct, strategic and long-term working relations with chip companies, according to market research firm Gartner.

For the last 100 years, automakers have focused on the mechanical side of car development and have mostly left software to other parties. "As digital technology becomes the differentiator in the car, software will become the main profitability growth driver for automakers. Ultimately, the goal for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) will be to turn into tech or software companies," said Pedro Pacheco, senior research director at Gartner.

Automakers are re-evaluating their long-held inventory strategy following the just-in-time (JIT) principle, which led OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers to have no buffer inventory to fall back on during the various chip shortages. As a result, automakers are reviewing how they deal with chip manufacturers and considering designing their own chips. Gartner predicts that by 2028, 70 per cent of vehicles sold will utilise Android Automotive operating system, up from less than 1 per cent today.

"As developing technology and software on their own is difficult, car companies can either partner with digital giants to succeed in turning software into a main moneymaker or build vast in-house resources to achieve it mostly on their own," Pacheco elaborated. By 2023, half of the top 10 automakers will offer unlocks and capability upgrades through software updates that can be purchased after the sale of the vehicle, it added. **IANS**

Power-packed petrol bunks soon in the city

Fuel stations start assigning space to set up electric vehicle charging stations

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

One of the biggest challenges for EV adoption is availability of charging stations. However, to bring some respite among EV users, many petrol bunks in the city are offering space for installing EV charging stations. This means that those EV owners can head to a selected petrol bunks to get their 'electric fuel'.

Parameshappa S, who works as a manager of a fuel station near Bagalagunte said, "We have tied up with a private company which has installed an EV charging station. We are offering only land. The customers need to download the app, pay money and book their slots so that they can come here and get the recharge. I feel that this is the beginning as more and more facilities will be opened up when the demand rises."

Kumar R, who works at a petrol bunk near Peenya, said, "The petrol bunks are now expanding to the needs of vehicle users. Traditionally, we were selling only petrol and diesel. Then, we shifted to LPG and a few stations to CNG. Now, we are now installing EV stations. I hope that if this trend continues, more and more fuel bunks will have extra EV charging stations."

Meanwhile, the Union Power Ministry recently issued the revised consolidated guidelines and standards for EV charging infrastructure. "The Centre has made 360-degree efforts to enhance public charging infrastructure by involving private and public agencies (BEE, EESL, PGCIL, NTPC and others). Many private organisations have also come forward to install EV charging stations to develop convenient charging network networks to gain consumers' confidence.

The Ministry of Power has planned that charging stations should be in an area of 3×3 km grid. Currently, India has a total of 1640 operational public EV chargers. Out of which, 9 cities (Surat, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Chennai) account for approximately 940 stations", a report said.

A release from PIB stated, "The government has increased its focus initially on these nine mega cities (with a population of over 4 million). The aggressive efforts undertaken by the government through various implementing agencies have resulted in rapid growth in deployment of public EV charging infrastructure. There has been additional installation of 678 public EV charging stations between October 2021 to January 2022 in the nine cities. This has exhibited greater confidence among the consumers to shift towards electric mobility."

What new rules say

- Providing an affordable tariff chargeable by public EV charging station
- Enabling owners of electric vehicles to charge EVs at their residences or offices using their existing electricity connections
- Revenue sharing model has been suggested for land use to make a public charging station financially viable from an operational perspective
- Timelines have been prescribed for providing connectivity to the Public Charging Station
- Technical requirements for public charging stations have been elaborated

The availability of adequate charging infrastructure had been the key impediments for accelerating the adoption of EVs in India. In this regard, the Ministry of Power issued "Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles—Guidelines and Standards," describing the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders at the Central and State level for expeditious deployment of public EV charging infrastructure across the country.

In this direction, the Oil Marketing Companies have announced the setting up of 22,000 EV charging stations in prominent cities and on national highways across the country.

Out of 22,000 EV charging stations, 10,000 will be installed by IOCL, 7,000 will be installed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and the rest of 5,000 will be installed by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL). The IOCL has already installed 439 EV charging stations and plans to install another 2,000 EV charging stations over the next year. BPCL has installed 52 charging stations, while HPCL has installed 382 charging stations. The Department of Heavy Industry has recently sanctioned 1,576 Public Charging Stations for 25 highways and expressways which shall be located within every 25 km of range.

CHARGING POINT

Finding the Guinness on e-route

Bengaluru entrepreneurs eye world record of covering 14K km on e-bikes

We have been hearing about a lot of bike/car rallies. Some of them also have brand specific rallies. Now, with the EV segment picking up, two Bengaluru-based entrepreneurs have set on a journey on their 'Made in India' electric motorcycles to cover 14,216 km in the country in 54 days.

John Kuruvilla and Gautam Khot reached the steel city of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand on Thursday after covering 3,000 km in the southern states and Odisha.

The duo said they are on a mission to exhort the youth to take the path of entrepreneurship, besides promoting environmental sustainability and making India "pothole-free". Their journey – named 'Bharatmala' or garlanding India – began in Bengaluru on February 4, and is expected to be completed by March 29.

"We have already covered 3,000 km in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand. We will next leave for West Bengal," Khot said. "We will apply for the Guinness World Record to break the current record of travelling 12,379 km on an electric motorcycle. The feat was achieved by Italians Nicola Colombo and Valerio Fumagalli in July 2013," Kuruvilla said. **PTI**

Q&A WITH

Decoding cyber crime

Pragna L Krupa anchors a session for our readers with DCP North East Anoop A Shetty, who shared his expertise on the hot topic

KAUSHIK JN

ANOOP A SHETTY, DCP NORTH EAST

In a first of its kind initiative, Bangalore Mirror interacted with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North East, Anoop A Shetty who answered queries from our readers related to cyber crimes in the city. Shetty who has been creating awareness on Cyber Safety through his Twitter account said that earlier the crimes used to happen through skimming of ATM cards and now it has become much easier to siphon money through UPI.

I once received a call from an executive claiming to be from an online shopping site who told me that my order was cancelled and they would refund the money. The person even read the order ID and details and asked me to share my Google pay number but I refused as I couldn't believe him. I received my order after a week. Was it really a cyber criminal? How to identify or differentiate between the criminal and actual staff?

There are many ways where the data can be leaked. A very primitive way is the data being leaked by one of the employees to his friends and others. Another way is by hacking the database of a company and posting it on the darkweb or any other platform where the data is sold to someone else. Most companies have third parties to handle their data which could be misused. Any delivery vendors will be involved to deliver the product who gets the data from the warehouse which could also be misused. If a person books a product through the website or an application, the company will send a notification or an email to alert the customer if there are any changes in delivery of the product. It is best to avoid such calls or share any info until you receive an update on the app. It is difficult to identify over the call and if the person starts to ask for UPI details or requests to make any payment, it is safe to end the call and wait for the company to send an official email as no company would call customers asking them to pay in the middle of the delivery. It would be either pay at the time of order or cash on delivery.

One can use the website haveibeenpwned.com to check if their email id, phone number or password is compromised

I'm a job seeker and have uploaded my resume on several paid websites. I keep receiving calls and messages from unknown persons offering me good jobs asking me to pay a certain amount as registration fee.

Job frauds are rampant in the city as many people have lost jobs due to covid and are desperate to find jobs. As everything has turned virtual, no one visits offices to verify and the interviews are also being taken online. One can proceed with the job until the company or the person asks for any money. Even if there is any payment or processing fee, one can pay after joining the company and if they insist before then there is every reason to feel suspicious. In many cases, they issue fake offer letters to get huge amounts of processing fee and even give them tasks to perform for months to drag and extort more money from them.

We (elderly couple) used to believe that matrimonial sites are safe and we're looking for a groom for our daughter who is 37 years old. Lately we have been reading a lot of frauds on these sites as well. How do we identify a fake profile?

There are two aspects in this one matrimonial and the other dating sites. In matrimonial sites there are fake profiles where criminals befriend women and start to exchange photos and videos which they later use to blackmail and extort money. People should not share any personal info until they meet face to face and verify backgrounds. In the other case, the criminals pose to be rich and settled abroad and under the pretext of sending the women expensive gifts, they start to extort money. They call under the pretext of customs and demand money to release the product. This modus operandi is seen in dating apps too.

How do we identify the authenticity of courier or goods transport services while booking and what if they start to ask us additional charges mid way?

Any professional courier services would take the payment at first or at the time of delivery and if someone calls mid way and asks for additional charges then it's a fraudulent company. We need to be very careful while searching for numbers online and should verify the company before booking for any services. There would be many fake websites, fake email IDs and fake advertisements. In a recent case, a criminal took a booking from a person and took an advance payment from them. He booked the services from the company under their name and after completing the service asked the person to pay the money when they approached us filing a complaint for harassment over double payment.

How to be safe on social media to prevent criminals from stealing our identities and photos, and misuse them?

It's a choice between keeping their account private or public. If you keep your accounts private then only known persons can view or access photos which would prevent such crimes. Private settings aspect is a way to regulate it to some extent and beyond that it is the person's choice to share photos with their friends or not.

I receive links on my WhatsApp asking me to click on the link to get rewards. Can my phone be hacked just by clicking on a link? How to identify fake links?

No one should click on links sent by unknown persons as the links could have malwares which can be installed on the phone and the phone would get compromised with the accused. Criminals use URL shorteners due to which people don't realise if the link is of any social media site or any website. There are websites where such shortened URLs can be decoded and people can use it to check the URL.

Some dos and don'ts

- Do not search for customer care numbers on internet search engines as the criminals would have put up their numbers at the first through paid advertisements.
- Do not share UPI ID, OTP or scan any QR code sent by unknown persons.
- Banks do not call and ask for account details and for any query, people should visit the banks personally.
- There are many fake websites and people should always verify the websites before placing the orders and going to the payment page as these pages can save bank details and syphon the money.
- Beware of remote access applications. Many applications provide complete access to the mobile phones and systems once the application code is shared with the accused.
- Do not trust anyone online and share personal information as it can be misused in several ways.

Can't differentiate between the callers or identify cyber crooks

We had a case where a cyber crook operating from Jharkhand had connected to people from southern states who could speak the local language fluently and took them onboard to cheat people. In another case, the accused had used Google translator to learn Kannada for basic communication and would dupe people into believing that he was from their city.

Rampant increase of blackmailing through loan applications

Do not download any loan applications as they are not verified or authorised by RBI to provide loans to the public. These applications have hidden codes which take access of your mobile phone and the app provider has access to all the photos, videos and contacts in the installed mobile phone. After providing loan, they start to blackmail them to return the money with high interest and morph their photos and send it to their friends and family to defame them.

In a recent case, a youth fell into depression after being harassed by multiple loan applications and could not deal with it. He had downloaded 30 such applications and did not know who was harassing him and who all were blackmailing him.

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 34-year-old married man. I was enjoying a good sex life till two months ago, when my wife told me she wants to have a baby. From that day, I have not been experiencing a good erection. I have tried to excite myself by watching porn but have failed. In the last couple of months we've had sex twice. But it didn't last long since I lost my erection. I am unable to comprehend what has suddenly happened. I am frustrated. Even my wife is annoyed. Do you suggest a change in diet to sustain an erection?
No, but you definitely need to change your thinking. The thought of starting a family has scared you. There is nothing wrong with your sexual apparatus. I suggest you forget about pregnancy and have sex for the pleasure. If you do not want to have a baby right away, have a frank chat with your wife.

2 How do actors in adult movies have so much stamina? How do they take so long to ejaculate? Do they ejaculate first and then shoot the scene? How are their penises so long and thick? Do they undergo some kind of medical treatment or take medicines? Are the effects short term or do they last long?.
The reason they get the job is because of what they have, and what you and I don't. Besides their natural gift, all the tricks of the trade are used to titillate the viewer, including filming with breaks and clever editing. Usually, no medication is used. It's a hard way to make a living.

3 I'm a 25-year-old man. I love to watch porn. Is this normal?
Normal is when you do anything rationally. If you are hooked to it, then you are not normal.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

It's found in lotions, scrubs bath bombs but also used in dishwashing soap, detergent and bathroom cleansers

Ria Bhatia
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
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Whether you're someone who keeps a distance from the beauty space or someone who enjoys skincare and makeup, borax is definitely something you wouldn't have heard of or know much about. "Borax is a naturally occurring mineral and is used as an ingredient in cleaning products like soaps and detergents. In cosmetic products, it may be used as a buffering agent, emulsifier or preservative," shares Dr Mikki Singh, head dermatologist at Bodycraft Skin Clinic.

Borax also known as sodium tetraborate decahydrate, sodium borate and sodium borate decahydrate in the world of chemicals is a natural mineral and a substance used in the formulations of a bunch of household cleaning as well as skincare products like cleansers, shampoos, creams, body lotions and even the very trending bath bombs.

"Borax or sodium tetraborate is a compound of the element 'Boron'. It is a naturally occurring powdery white mineral and is essentially a boric acid salt. Borax powder is made up of soft white crystals that dissolve in water," shares Dr Niketa Sonavane, founder of Ambrosia Aesthetics. "For many decades, borax has been used as a household cleaning product. It is also used in the production of children's toys, such as homemade slime," adds Dr Sonavane. Many confuse borax with boric acid; however, boric acid is a more refined and processed version of the mineral compound.

Uses
Besides skincare products and household cleaning products like detergents, soaps and handwashes, borax has many other uses. It can soften hard water which is why it is also used in swimming pools to maintain pH levels. It helps keep insects and pests away which is why its pesticide-like property can be used in the house as well as your gardens. "There are numerous applications for borax. It aids in the removal of stains, mold and mildew from the home, it is used to help whiten and remove dirt in laundry detergents and household cleaners and can neutralise odors," adds Dr Sonavane.

Borax is an ingredient used widely in the skincare industry in a bunch of products as mentioned above. "Borax as an ingredient is used to eradicate skin bacteria and remove dead skin cells and excess oil. It does not penetrate deep into the skin and makes it relatively safe to use in limited quantities," says Dr. Singh. "Borax is used in the cosmetic industry to prevent or slow bacterial growth in moisturising products like creams, shampoos, gels, lotions, bath bombs, scrubs and bath salts. Manufacturers of cosmetics use borax as a buffering agent or an emulsifier to keep product ingredients from separating," reveals Dr Sonavane.

Is it safe?
When it comes to using borax in skincare products, there's a big debate on whether it's safe or not. Though derived from natural sources, the ingredient has been found to have skin-irritating properties, disrupting the comfort levels of the skin. Though used very sparingly in the formulation of skin care products, people have experienced reactions after using a borax-infused product.

"It is important to note that 'natural' doesn't always mean safe. So when using ingredients like borax on our skin, one must always exercise precaution. The pH range of borax is around 9 to 11 which makes it extremely alkaline and can sensitize and irritate the skin when used undiluted. While there are no conclusive studies that suggest borax is harmful to the skin, there are also not enough studies that suggest it is safe," explains Dr Singh.

"While borax is a natural product, that does not mean it is completely safe. Borax is frequently packaged in a box with a warning label informing users that the product is an eye irritant and may be harmful if swallowed. Borax is thought to be noncarcinogenic. It does, however, pose some risks, such as skin, eye, and respiratory irritation. Aside from that, it can cause digestive issues, infertility, kidney failure, shock and even death," shares Dr Sonavane.

"In today's cleansers and cosmetics, modern ingredients have largely replaced the use of borax. Slime can also be made with other ingredients, such as cornstarch. However, many people continue to use borax because they believe it is safe because it is a naturally occurring substance," adds Dr Sonavane.

For kids
"Children should avoid coming into contact with borax or products containing borax. People used to use borax to make slime for children to play with in the past. Children, on the other hand, are especially vulnerable to borax toxicity. A young child who consumes 5 to 10 grams of borax may experience severe vomiting, diarrhea, shock, and death. Small children can be exposed to borax through hand-to-mouth transfer, especially if they play with borax slime or crawl around on pesticide-treated floors," explains Dr Sonavane.

"Children, being young, require gentle products for their skin. The pH of our skin ranges around 5 while borax is extremely alkaline. As it has the potential to cause skin irritation, it is better to avoid using borax," says Dr Singh.

Borax or baking soda
"Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and borax (sodium tetraborate) are not the same things. Both are salts, and both are popular as 'green' household cleaning agents, but borax has a pH of 9.5, whereas baking soda has a pH of 8. As a result, borax is significantly more alkaline than baking soda," explains Dr Sonavane. "Because they are alkaline and abrasive, baking soda and Borax are both effective. However, because Borax has a higher pH than baking soda, it is a slightly harsher but potentially more effective cleaning agent," she adds.

MIRRORLIGHTS

5 things triggering acne

Ria Bhatia
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

At times, despite doing everything right – from skincare ingredients to 10-step routines – you still get pimples on your face. While that can be extremely annoying, it can also be credited to your ignorance towards some day-to-day habits that you should be doing otherwise. If you've searched your brains wondering about what exactly is triggering your acne, but to no avail, here's something that can help.

An unclean and unhealthy scalp becomes a breeding spot of bacteria and germs that can easily crawl up to your forehead and accelerate acne.

A dirty pillowcase can trigger more acne all over the face (especially the cheeks) than you think. This is because all the dirt, oil, sebum (and even makeup, if you don't remove it) can accumulate and build upon the pillowcases and transfer to your skin.

Stress is as good as poison and

this is no secret. However, stress can also stimulate acne. Stress leads to a bunch of skin concerns like premature ageing, wrinkling and, most importantly, affects the ideal sebum regulation. As the oil production goes haywire, excessive sebum spurs acne.

Many people, especially adults, are prone to acne when they consume refined and carb-rich foods. Foods packed with oils, sugars and carbohydrates can instantly enter into the bloodstream causing a spike in the insulin. This translates to an abundance of blood sugar which can cause acne. Next time, choose your food wisely.

The phone screen touches our face, hands, and so many more external stimuli before ending up at our faces again. This exposes our skin to a wide range of germs which can easily cause breakouts.

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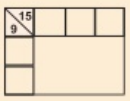
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

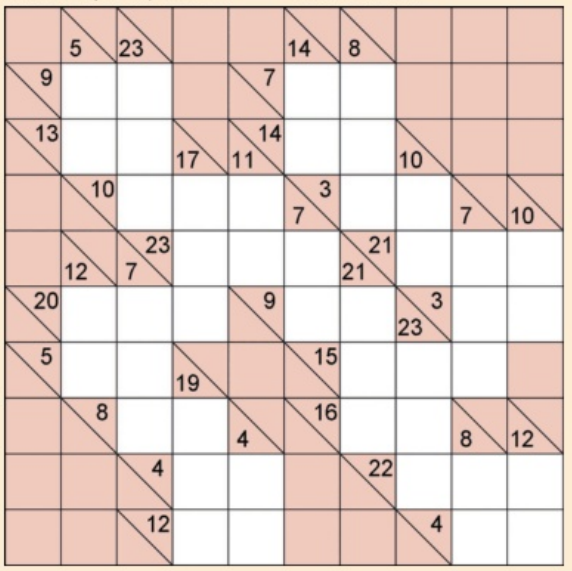
A number consist of two digits whose product is 14. When 45 is subtracted from the number, the digits interchange their places. Find the number.

Kakuro

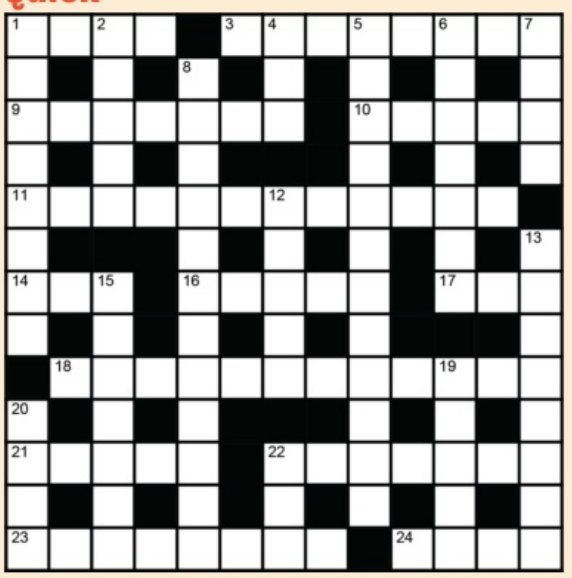
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Churl (4)
3 Belonging to a country (8)
9 Inhabitants or nationals of a country? (7)
10 Elector (5)
11 Interval (12)
14 Ultimo, in short (3)
16 Japanese-American (5)
17 __ Luis : city in North Brazil? (3)
18 Person in his 90s (12)
21 Cowboy competition (5)
22 State of U.S.A (7)
23 Paper for brides (8)
24 Indolently (4)

DOWN

1 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
2 Group of eight (5)
4 Donkey (3)
5 Private eye (12)
6 Beliefs or ideas (7)
7 Master of the manor (4)
8 Besides, also (4,3,5)
12 Put into circulation (5)
13 Perimeter (8)
15 Trampled (7)
19 Homeric epic (5)
20 Bric-a-___ : Miscellaneous curios (4)
22 Adipose (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS H

NH ANX OXHY DXC VUBH IXB NHUWHD ZKC EY VXDCHDCHO ANHBH NH EY, EY UGBHUOQ ED NHUWHD.

Linemaro

I'd ask you for a light, but you've already lit my fire

Mindchow

If you can't forgive and forget, pick one

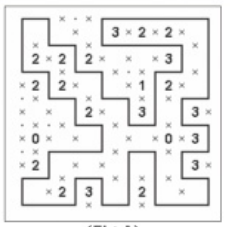
Joke of the day

A skeleton walks into a bar and says: "I'd like a beer..and a mop"

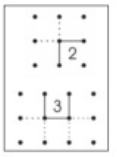
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



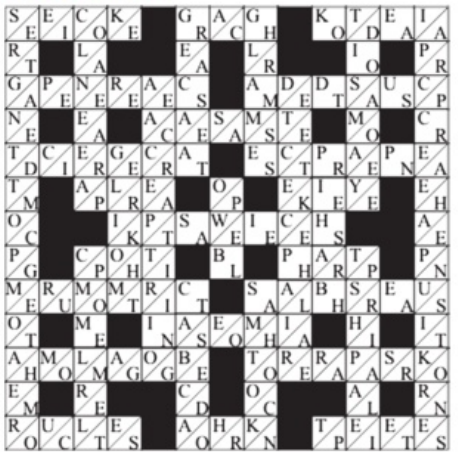
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

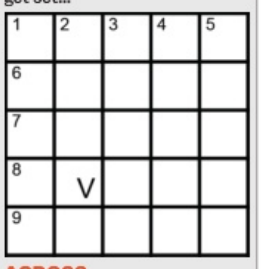
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Edgar; 6 A alum;
7 In MIB; 8 Suave;
9 Pryer

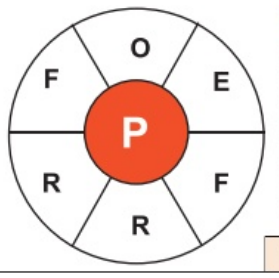
DOWN

1 Up urn (3-2); 2 Evil a;
3 Marge; 4 Bream;
5 Id Say

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

C A L M & R E E H C



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

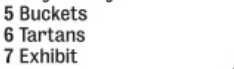
SudokuChallenge

5								1
9	4		6		3		5	2
	8			1			7	
		8	3		1	5		
3								9
		9	2		5	7		
	2			3			6	
8	6		9		7		4	5
7								3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

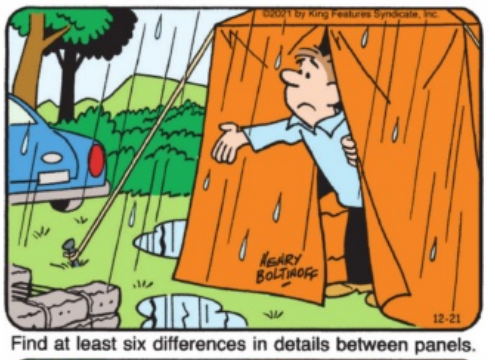


Easy = 15
4 5 5 9

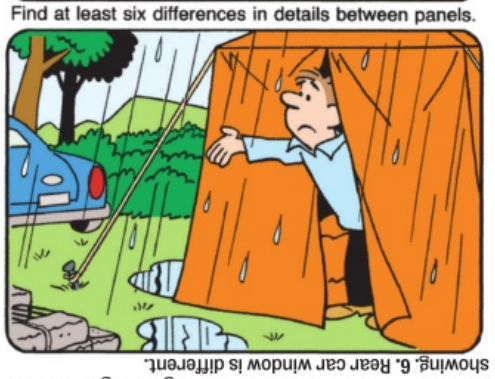
Medium = 5
2 2 4 7

Hard = 19
5 7 9 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



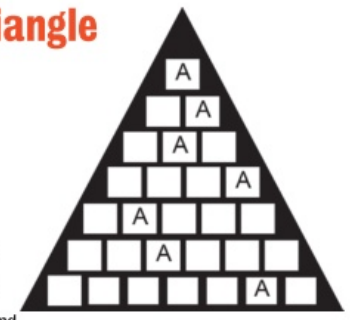
Differences: 1. Arm is raised. 2. Puddle is moved. 3. Car tire is moved. 4. Brick is missing. 5. Fingers are not showing. 6. Rear car window is different.

Riddler

What does each word in each group have in common? Group A: A baby, A cow, A shoe Group B: A duck, A restaurant goer, United States Congress Group C: A river, A cave, A face

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Dad
3 Sugar source
4 City in Italy
5 Buckets
6 Tartans
7 Exhibit



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, LEE!
$20 GIFT CARD
Flo-Anns FABRICS
60% OFF
Hey Lee, I can't wait to see what kind of clothes you make with your new fabric! And use this coupon on a Tuesday. The deals are unreal. - Dean
WHOA!!
THANK YOU, DEAN!!
COUPON TUESDAYS WIN AGAIN.

Crankshaft

HOW'S IT GOING, SANTA?
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY CUSTOMERS ALL DAY!
HERE - WHY DON'T YOU HOLD MITCH TO BREAK THE ICE.
ISN'T THIS NIPPERTISM?
12-15

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You may have some changes in your place and position at work , in terms of promotions. You are likely to have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy at work. You may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to make quick decisions, which will increase profits in your business. You may start working on a new innovation in partnership. Investments in fixed assets in the partnership is not advised.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work and you may expect some promotions or transfer in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relationship with your seniors will be strong. Old health issues will be cured now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You may be dissatisfied. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance and it may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work and your hard work may pay you now. This may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network. Disputes with the partner may also be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which will make you happy. You are polite with people around you. You may make some difficult decisions in the business with the help of your family members. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills, which may increase profits in the business.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may have a good internal strength and you may enjoy working. You may also enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start a new project; your perfection may help you to implement the plans successfully. Job seekers may find a good job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your way of speaking with people around you. Love birds should be careful in making discussions on worthless topics, otherwise, the relationship may get affected.

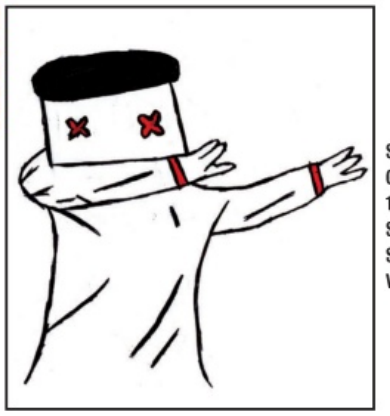
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may find peace of mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity into your venture. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may find a good match. Love birds may plan to get married.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control; you will enjoy at work and your focus may be good. This will reflect into your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in making difficult decisions in terms of your profession. Your past investments may bring in profits.

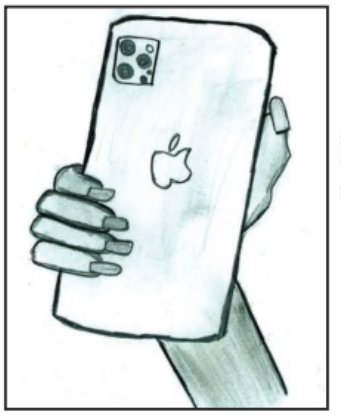
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today's moon is positive. Your health may be good today. You are likely to visit some religious sites with family or friends. You may plan to donate some money to a religious place or to some charity. Property-related deals may get done. You may plan for overseas travel related to work. You may also plan for higher education.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, the moon is negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies. You are advised to avoid being involved in controversies; your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this messy situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in domestic life. You should also avoid rash driving or any adventure tour.

KIDZONE



Sagar P Goswamy, 14 years, Sri Manjunatha Swamy Vidyanikatan



Sharanya H, 14 years, SMVN School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
pore, PROFFER, rope

SOLVE IN 1M
72-45=27

RIDDLER
Group A - a tongue,
Group B - a bill,
Group C - a mouth

QUOTE UNCODE
He who does not care for Heaven but is contented where he is, is already in Heaven.

FAST FIVE

R	A	G	E	D
U	L	A	M	A
N	I	M	B	I
U	V	E	A	S
P	E	R	R	Y

STRIKE OUT

S	I	C	K	R	A	G	O	D	E	A				
T	A	E	L	I	P									
A	E	A	S	A	D	D	S	U	P					
N	A	C	E	S	E	M	R							
D	I	R	E	C	T	S	C	R	A	P	E			
T	A	L	E	O	K	E	Y	H						
H	O	M	A	G	E	O	R	A	P	R	O			
T	M	N	A	O	M	I	I	I						
E	R	O	T	I	C	S	A	B	R	E	S			
G	P	O	T	L	H	A	T	N						
O	I	P	S	W	I	C	H	E						
T	A	L	E	O	K	E	Y	H						
D	I	R	E	C	T	S	C	R	A	P	E			
N	A	C	E	S	E	M	R							
A	E	N	E	A	S	A	D	D	S	U	P			
T	A	E	L	I	P									
S	I	C	K	R	A	G	O	D	E	A				

QUICK

C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I		I	D	L	Y		
A		E		V		A		R		A		R		
R	O	D	E	O		F	L	O	R	I	D	A		
B		D		B		T		L		D				
N	O	N	A	G	E	N	A	R	I	A	N			
R		R		D		G		U						
U	L	T		N	I	S	E	I		S	A	O		
P		A		S		T		N		B				
I	N	T	E	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N			
D		E		E		E		I		D				
N	A	T	I	V	E	S		V	O	T	E	R		
A		C		O		S		N		O				
B	O	O	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L			

MENSA PUZZLE
calm down and cheer up

SUDOKU

7	9	4	1	5	6	2	8	3
8	6	3	9	2	7	1	4	5
1	2	5	8	3	4	9	6	7
6	1	9	2	4	5	7	3	8
3	5	2	7	6	8	4	1	9
4	7	8	3	9	1	5	2	6
2	8	6	5	1	9	3	7	4
9	4	1	6	7	3	8	5	2
5	3	7	4	8	2	6	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Pa, Sap, Pisa, Palls, Plaids, Display.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 4 + 5 + 5 = 15
Medium
4 + 2 × 2 - 7 = 5
Hard
7 × 5 - 7 - 9 = 19

LOOP

KAKURO

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Boney squashes rumours of working with Rajinikanth
— Putting rumours of his highly-anticipated collaboration with megastar Rajinikanth to rest, veteran producer Boney Kapoor clarified that the two haven't finalised on working together for a project yet

BangaloreMirror | 12
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Flower power girl

5 of the actor's best floral outfits

As actor Disha Patani wrapped up shooting for her upcoming film 'Ek Villain Returns', we take a look at her sartorial choices. What we found on her Insta clicks is the actor has a special spot in her heart for floral outfits. Let's take a look at her floral wardrobe today.

Pose perfect

The 'Malang' actress made heads turn in a cute floral attire in shades of black and white. She struck her poses with utmost perfection and looked elegant. Her long wavy locks, a blissful smile, and subtle make-up tied her whole look together.

The eyes have it

This look of Disha surely made our hearts skip a beat. The actress was seen donning an orange attire featuring illustrated floral motifs in shades of pink and green. She chose to keep her look simple yet elegant with well defined eyes.

Comfortably striking

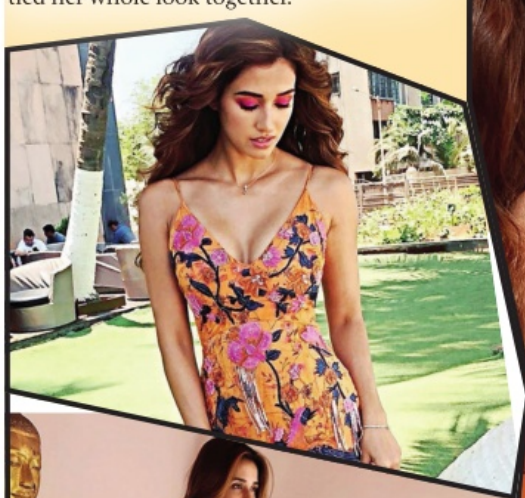
Finding the perfect balance between comfort and colors, Disha Patani made heads turn in a yellow crop top teamed with a pair of floral pink bottoms. She looked mesmerizing striking her pose with perfection. A radiating smile tied her whole look together.

Bundle of sunshine

Donning one of her brightest smiles, Disha looked the prettiest in a little yellow dress with tiny sunflowers. She completed her look with heart shaped hoop earrings and left her long wavy locks open.

Sun-kissed moment

Disha looked pretty in blue floral attire, as she basked under the sunkissed glow. With that radiating smile of hers, she was a complete vision to behold. Her long wavy hair tied her whole look together.



Bey, Zendaya in talks for a classic remake

Singers Beyonce and Zendaya are said to be in talks to star in a remake of the movie 'Imitation of Life'.

The drama film was first released in 1934, based on Fannie Hurst's 1933 novel of the same name, and then remade in 1959, starring Lana Turner, Juanita Moore, John Gavin and Sandra Dee, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

It is thought if Zendaya does sign up for the remake of the classic film, which dealt with issues of race, class and gender, it could take her movie stock "to the next level".

An insider said: "'Imitation of Life' is renowned in the film world because of the issues it tackled and they seem more relevant than ever right now. "Everyone wants Zendaya in their films at the moment, but it feels like this could be the movie to take her to the next level and really get some awards buzz."

Beyonce is said to be keen to "really sink her teeth into" a juicy role. The insider added to The Sun newspaper's bizarre column: "Beyonce has dipped her toe in a few projects like Disney's 'Lion King', voicing the part of lioness Nala. "But now she wants a project she can really sink her teeth into, so she is very interested."

Should Beyonce and Zendaya team up for the film, it wouldn't be the first time they have joined forces. Zendaya starred in Beyonce's 'All Night' music video in 2016, and she admitted to being a huge fan of the 'Single Ladies' hitmaker. During a 2017 talk about the stars who inspire her, Zendaya said: "Beyonce. She took it to the next level with Lemonade." —IANS

Glorious tribute to nan

Actor Samyukta Hornad on Sunday paid a glorious tribute to her late grandmother, veteran actress Bhargavi Narayan, whose decision to pledge her body to science after her death came in for much praise recently.

Taking to Instagram, actress Samyukta, who has made a name for herself in the Kannada and Tamil film industries, said, "My greatest relationship has been my journey with my 'ajji'."

"From stitching her own blouses, to drawing that perfectly round bindi, my ajji Bhajji paved her own path and was brave enough to walk it. She owned everything she did. She lit up an entire venue with her fire; she was power personified...

"My ajji was my first director, I was six when she directed my first play, 'Undadi Gunda', she was the boss, the captain… everyone would follow her, voluntarily. I used to follow her everywhere, I wanted to do everything she did, just like everyone else.

"She is in my bones, in my veins, in my DNA, in my thoughts, my acts and so much more. I miss her but she is me in every part of my body, mind and soul. I want to make her proud. I'll take one step at a time, not too soon, not too late, but I'll get there, I promise. Being all I can be, for all I can be, for as long as I can be, just like my ajji." —IANS

BSY to face the camera for Tanuja

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will experiment with the reel world now. He will be exhibiting his acting chops in Kannada movie Tanuja. Yediyurappa joins the ranks of many other politicians who have stepped into tinsel town before or after their stint in politics. The director of the movie Harish Halli says this movie is based on the real story of a girl who braves all the odds to write the NEET examination. Yediyurappa accepted the role after hearing the script. Earlier many Chief Ministers have acted in the movies and some have produced movies also in Kannada

Earlier, director Kavita Lankesh announced that Siddaramaiah will act in the movie "Summer Holidays" at the inaugural function of the movie, but this project did not materialise.

Sarekoppa Bangarappa also has a film connection and his son Kumar Bangarappa acted in many movies prior to entering politics. Ramakrishna Hegde also acted in the movies after he left office. He debuted in Marana Mrudanga and also acted in Prajashakti.

HD Kumaraswamy started his career as a producer. He produced several movies and recently Jaguar for his son Nikhil Gowda. — PRAKASH VL